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Agenda item 68

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 21 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Declaration on Yugoslavia, issued on 18 October 1991 by the European Community and its member States, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 68 of the agenda for the forty-sixth session.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
Kingdom of the Netherlands

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
United States of America

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Annex

[Original: English and French]

DECLARATION ON YUGOSLAVIA BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ISSUED AT THE HAGUE ON 18 OCTOBER 1991

The European Community and its member States, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are deeply concerned by the continuing violence and bloodshed in Yugoslavia. None of the cease-fire accords agreed on over the last three months appear to have been implemented in full. We are convinced that cease-fire accords offer the only path away from further worsening of this conflict and towards a peaceful and just resolution.

We call upon the Presidents of the Republics, who will participate in Friday's plenary meeting of the Conference on Yugoslavia, to reaffirm their commitment to the peace process and to adhere absolutely to the commitments they have already made.

In calling for an end to hostilities and observance of the cease-fire agreements, we are motivated by concern for the fate of all the peoples of Yugoslavia, for the rights of all ethnic minorities, and for the future of the Balkan region and of Europe as a whole. We are distressed by the terrible violence and loss of life that have occurred and by the possibility of even worse suffering if the conflict is not resolved. We are particularly disturbed by reports of continued attacks on civilian targets by elements of the federal armed forces and by both Serbian and Croatian irregular forces. The continuation of military activities in Croatia threatens to extend the armed confrontation to other regions of Yugoslavia.

Our common desire is to promote a speedy and complete halt to all military activities as an essential precondition to a settlement. We condemn the use of force for the settlement of political differences. We also reject the use of force to change established borders, whether internal or external. Such actions are totally unacceptable in 1991 in the heart of Europe. The principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with regard to borders, minority rights and political pluralism guide our approach towards resolution of this conflict and should be respected and adhered to by the parties in Yugoslavia themselves. We will not accept any outcome that violates these principles.

Croatia and the Yugoslav National Army should make a serious start with discussion about the status of the Yugoslav National Army in the interim period. The European Community and its member States, through its monitor mission or otherwise, could facilitate this process.

The United States and the USSR reiterate their full support for the efforts of the European Community and its member States, under mandate by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to mediate a peaceful resolution to the Yugoslav crisis, in particular through the Conference on Yugoslavia and the Arbitration Commission set up within its framework.

The United States and the USSR express their readiness to support restrictive measures applied by the European Community and its member States to help achieve a successful outcome of the Conference on Yugoslavia.

The European Community and its member States, the United States and the USSR also endorse the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to further the prospects for a peaceful settlement.

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CONCLUSION OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 25 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine (see annex).

I request that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

Annex

STATEMENT OF 24 OCTOBER 1991 BY THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine

Confirming the intention of Ukraine, proclaimed in the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine of 16 July 1990, to adhere to the three non-nuclear principles: not to accept, not to produce and not to acquire nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the necessity of strict observance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968,

Seeking to contribute towards the strengthening of the international regime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine states:

1. The presence of the nuclear weapons of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the territory of Ukraine is temporary.

2. Now these weapons are under control of the correponding structures of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Ukraine insists on the right of its control over the non-use of nuclear weapons located on its territory.

3. Ukraine shall follow the policy aimed at the comprehensive elimination of nuclear weapons and components of their deployment located on the territory of the Ukrainian State. It intends to achieve it in the shortest time possible taking into account legal, technical, financial, organizational and other possibilities and with the proper securing of ecological safety.

In Ukraine there will be launched the wide programme of conversion of the defence industry, re-aiming the part of the military industrial capability towards the needs of economic and social development.

4. Ukraine, as one of the successors of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, shall fulfil the provisions of the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Weapons of 1991 in the part that concerns the nuclear weapons located on its territory.

Ukraine is ready to start negotiations with the Republic of Belarus, the Kazakh SSR, the Russian SFSR with the participation of the corresponding structures of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the elimination of strategic nuclear weapons covered by this Treaty.

5. Ukraine shall take steps aimed at eliminating all other nuclear weapons located on its territory and for this matter is ready, as necessary, to participate in negotiations with all interested parties, including existing multilateral mechanisms in the field of disarmament.

6. Ukraine shall take appropriate steps to secure all the time until the complete elimination of these weapons the physical safety of nuclear weapons located on its territory.

7. Ukraine intends to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear State and to conclude with the International Atomic Energy Agency a corresponding agreement on guarantees.

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Agenda item 68

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 28 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a declaration of the European Community and its member States on the situation in Yugoslavia, issued on 28 October 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Declaration on the situation in Yugoslavia, issued on 28 October 1991

The European Community and its member States assessed the results of the seventh plenary session of the Conference on Yugoslavia, which took place on 25 October 1991 at The Hague under the chairmanship of Lord Carrington.

They concluded that five Republics had reiterated their readiness to cooperate on the basis of the draft arrangements submitted by Lord Carrington and the Presidency. They also noted that one Republic continued to reserve its position.

The European Community and its member States remain convinced that only a comprehensive arrangement, based on the principles as reflected in the draft arrangements submitted to the Conference on Yugoslavia, will ensure a peaceful solution to the present crisis. Notably, the principles of no unilateral change of borders, protection of human rights and rights of ethnic and national groups constitute universal, objective standards, which leave no room for compromise.

The European Community and its member States are appalled at constant violations of those principles. In this context, they refer to the Serbian position in the Conference, the coup d'état by four members of the Federal Presidency and their announcement of a plan aimed at the establishment of a greater Serbia. The statements and actions of the Yugoslav National Army (JNA), which were condemned in the Declaration on Dubrovnik of 27 October 1991, should also be seen in this light.

If the Yugoslavia Conference is to succeed, these principles must be unequivocally accepted by all the parties, which means that the Serbian reservation must be lifted. If at the next plenary session of the Conference on 5 November the Serbian reservation is lifted, the Conference, as presently constituted, will continue on the basis of the draft arrangements. If not, the Conference will proceed with the cooperative Republics to obtain a political solution, in the perspective of recognition of the independence of those Republics wishing it, at the end of a negotiating process conducted in good faith, as set out at Haarzuilens on 6 October. Non-cooperative parties can then expect restrictive measures to be taken against them by the European Community and its member States.

The European Community and its member States will ask the Security Council urgently to address the question of further restrictive measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Ministers will take up the question of restrictive measures at their meeting on 4 November, with a view to taking a decision at a subsequent meeting later in the week on the basis of the results of the next plenary session of the Conference on 5 November.

In view of the significance of the meeting of 5 November, the Coordinator of the Conference, Ambassador Wijnaendts, will meet with relevant parties in Yugoslavia in a final attempt to bridge remaining differences. Lord Carrington will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations today. In the meantime, the working groups of the Conference will continue to elaborate and refine the arrangements for the comprehensive settlement.

The Economic Community and its member States call on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as on the Security Council of the United Nations to continue to express support for their endeavours to bring about a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis and to denounce the role played by JNA and the coup d'état by four members of the Federal Presidency.